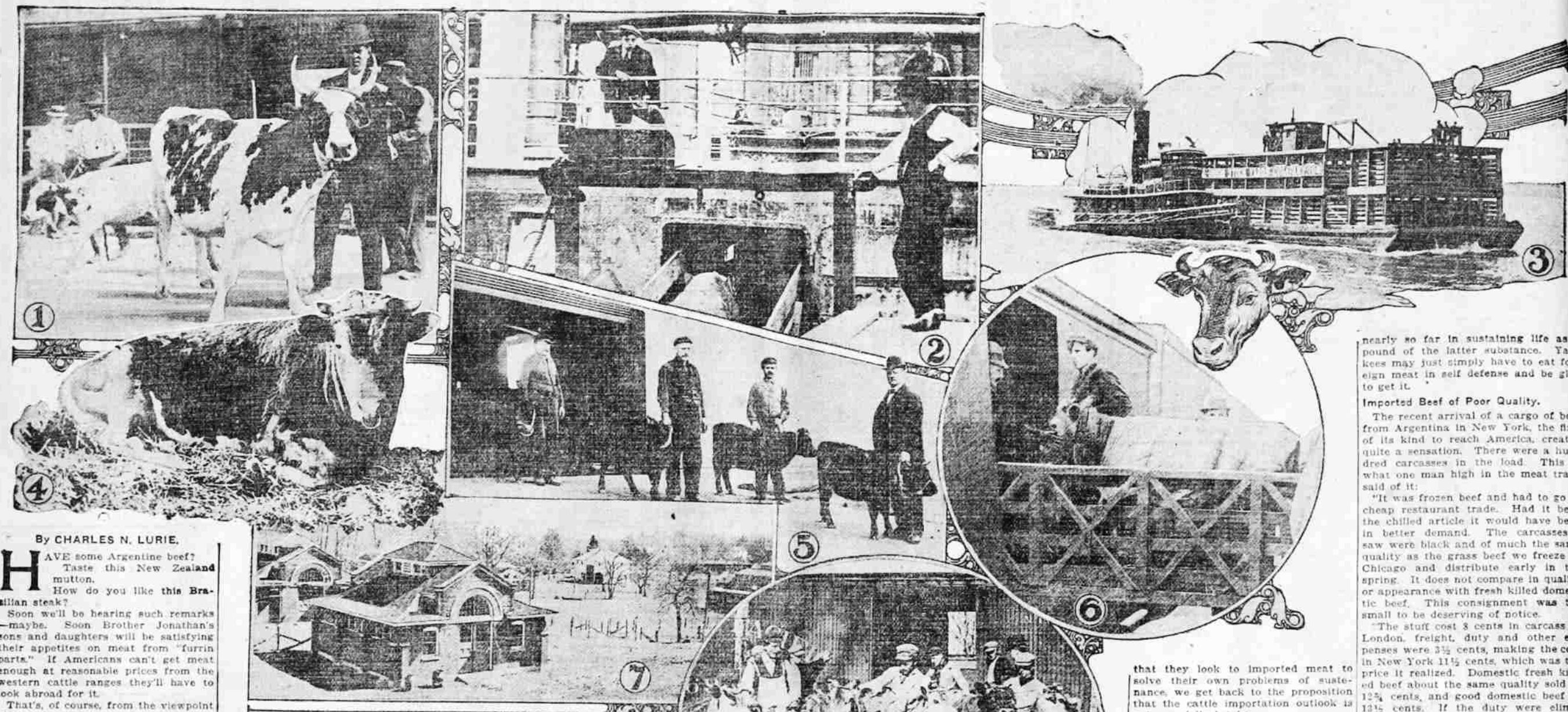


TOPICS-ON-THE-TIP-OF-THE-WORLD'S-TONGUE

FOREIGN MEAT FOR YANKEE EATERS—MAYBE



By CHARLES N. LURIE.

HAVE some Argentine beef? Taste this New Zealand mutton. How do you like this Brazilian steak?

Soon we'll be hearing such remarks—maybe. Soon Brother Jonathan's sons and daughters will be satisfying their appetites on meat from "foreign parts." If Americans can't get meat enough at reasonable prices they'll have to look abroad for it.

That's, of course, from the viewpoint of the chewer of the meat. The man who sells it sings a different song. He says, sharply and succinctly: "Nothing doing. There's nothing in this talk of foreign meat." The tariff bill making meat and cattle free won't make any difference, he says, nor will the opening of the Panama canal nor the settlement of the trouble in Mexico. Meat is high and is going to remain high because there is a worldwide shortage of cattle. There is no such thing anywhere as a surplus big enough to bring down the price in the United States. If there were, says the man in the packing house counting room, the folks in his own country would eat it.

They Put the Blame on the Farmer.

It may be taken for granted that meat is high in the United States and is going to continue high, for some time at least, unless we all turn vegetarians or look to the sea for food. The blame is put by the packers on the farmer. That unpatriotic citizen (loud applause from New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Omaha and the other centers of the packing industry) sees more profit in growing grain, also less

Photographs by United States department of agriculture.

1.—Unloading imported cattle at quarantine station, Turner, Md. 2.—Loading cattle from lighter to ocean steamer. 3.—Lighter carrying cattle from Jersey City to steamer dock in New York. 4.—Young bulls in stall on incoming steamer. 5.—Kerry cattle being unloaded at Baltimore. 6.—Transferring imported cattle from steamer dock to lighter at New York. 7.—Quarantine station for imported animals at Athens, N. J. 8.—Unloading imported cattle at Athens.

labor, than in nursing along Bossy and her son and daughter. So he grows grain. The supply of meat falls, and the price rises with a balanced regularity that is beautiful to see—to the economist, with a theory to demonstrate, not to the housewife and her hungry kids.

Much of the blame also goes to the changed conditions in the formerly great cattle raising regions of the west and northwest. The man with the hoe is taking the place of the cowboy with the quirt. The tomato vine blooms where the prairie grass grew lush. Result—less meat, higher prices.

According to recent reliable statistics, there are now in the United States 56,527,000 head of beef cattle. Six years ago we had about 80,000,000. Now,

in the same six years the population has increased about 12,000,000. It is easy to see the reason for the packers' opportunity. Of course they have to pay higher for the meat which they pass on to the consumer. The man who raises the cattle sees the significance of such figures just as quickly as does the woman who takes home a sirloin steak for her family.

Half a Head For Each Person.

Expressed in different figures, the tale of meat goes thus: Six years ago there was one head of cattle in the United States for each man, woman and child between the Atlantic and the Pacific. Now each of us has to be satisfied with the ownership of six-tenths of a head, and soon that will go down

to five-tenths. Half an animal makes a good sized meal, but if each of us were to eat his half at the same time, what would we do for tomorrow's dinner?

Other countries have meat animals? Sure! Here are the latest figures:

Country	Year	Total
British India	1929	105,000,000
Russia	1928	47,000,000
Argentina	1928	29,000,000
Brazil	1928	25,000,000
Germany	1927	21,000,000
Austria-Hungary	1928	18,000,000

Taken in conjunction with the population figures for these countries, the table shows that the number per capita of cattle in this country is higher than it is in India, Germany, France, Austria-Hungary, Holland, Russia, Great Britain, Belgium and Italy. Figuring also that the folks in these countries have to eat as well as we and

that they look to imported meat to solve their own problems of sustenance, we get back to the proposition that the cattle importation outlook is not especially bright.

What Ails Foreign Countries.

Before the recent troubles Mexico looked promising as a source of meat supply. It is now believed that given peaceable conditions—which are by no means certain, of course—it will take that country at least ten years to get back on the basis of its Diaz days. Australia is afflicted with frequent droughts, which makes the cattle situation precarious there, and Argentina cattle are affected by the dangerous foot and mouth disease.

Of course any meat that reaches the United States from Australia or South America must be frozen to bear the long voyages. The packers say Americans will not eat solidly frozen meats and that such meats cannot compete with American corn fed cattle.

No one denies the superiority of American meat for consumption in America, but it must be had in sufficient quantity as well as suitable quality. At one time a Kentucky steer fed on blue grass or prize corn tastes a whole heap better perhaps than the same amount of frozen Argentine meat, but it probably won't go

nearly so far in sustaining life as a pound of the latter substance. Yankees may just simply have to eat foreign meat in self defense and be glad to get it.

Imported Beef of Poor Quality.

The recent arrival of a cargo of beef from Argentina in New York, the first of its kind to reach America, created quite a sensation. There were a hundred carcasses in the load. This is what one man high in the meat trade said of it:

"It was frozen beef and had to go to cheap restaurant trade. Had it been the chilled article it would have been in better demand. The carcasses I saw were black and of much the same quality as the grass beef we freeze at Chicago and distribute early in the spring. It does not compare in quality or appearance with fresh killed domestic beef. This consignment was too small to be deserving of notice."

The stuff cost 3 cents in carcasses at London, freight, duty and other expenses were 3½ cents, making the cost in New York 11½ cents, which was the price it realized. Domestic fresh killed beef about the same quality sold at 12½ cents, and good domestic beef at 13½ cents. If the duty were eliminated it would be possible to put this beef into the New York market and create considerable competition for our Texas cattle, common native steers from 7½ cents down at Chicago, and also all but the best cows and heifers.

"The product of such cattle goes to cheap trade, and if Argentine beef could be put into New York at 10 cents it would be a dangerous competitor, but that it would affect good beef I doubt. Results of the recent invasion of Pacific coast markets by Australian and New Zealand product shows that domestic product of quality has enjoyed a market of its own and has not felt the competition of inferior foreign stuff."

A man who spoke with authority asserted recently that the passage by congress of a law forbidding the slaughtering of female cattle, heifers and cows until they were seven years old would build up the American supply of beef cattle so that in five years there would be enough to supply the entire American demand and reduce prices. "There will never be any scarcity if we can get such a law," said this man.

Coming From Ends of the Earth To Discuss Welfare of Children



SCHOOL CHILDREN TAKING OUTDOOR EXERCISE—CHARLES W. ELIOT, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL HYGIENE CONGRESS.

FOLKS with children of school age, with those who are interested in such children—and these two classes include about all of us—ought to follow closely the proceedings of the coming international congress on school hygiene to be held in Buffalo Aug. 25-29. From it we shall learn much about the proper treatment of our own children and other people's children in the formative period of their lives, that they may begin their active careers with the greatest of all boons, "sound minds in sound bodies."

The congress will be the fourth gathering of the kind and the first held in America. To it will go delegates from every state in the union and from every important nation on earth. The subject is one that is attracting ever growing attention in civilized coun-

tries, and the nations and states are sending some of their greatest scientists and educators to the congress. President Wilson recently accepted, "with real pleasure," the honorary presidency of the congress. The active president is Dr. Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard university.

The program of the congress is very long and covers about every phase of the welfare of the child while he is in school. Light will be thrown on the home conditions of the world's school children, since they have a direct bearing on his welfare elsewhere, and his physical condition, food, training in hygiene, the training of his teacher, the inspection of his eyes, ears, nose, throat, his proper clothing, the ventilation of classrooms, etc., will come in for thorough discussion.

Among the attendants at the congress will be fifty public health officers, who will discuss and hear discussions on the following topics:

The organization of health departments in schools, the relationship of the school to the board of health, the equipment, training and compensation of school physicians; school nurses, school clinics, relation of health supervision in the schools to the practice of the physician, the dentist and the hospital; the relation of medical and hygienic supervision in the schools to health supervision in the homes, sanitary supervision of schoolrooms, locker rooms, swimming pools, school books and school furniture; supervision of the schools in the prevention of epidemics, "follow up" methods and results, medical inspection and treatment.

Even the lay reader, with only a general interest in the subject, can see how big and important the work of the congress will be. It affects not merely the child of the poor, with insufficient care and medical treatment at home, but the children of the well to do and the rich, since the latter are subject just as much as the former to the attacks of children's diseases.

Dr. E. O. Jordan of the University of Chicago said in a recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association:

"The school playground, as well as the schoolroom, must be considered in its bearing on the subject of school diseases. The significance of school attendance on the public health side lies not only in the assembling of children in a room, but also in the bringing into more or less intimate association a number of children who would otherwise not have met at all. Increasing the number of associates must necessarily increase the chances of infection. Diphtheria and scarlet fever show a marked increase in the autumn when the schools open and an equally definite decrease in the summer when the schools are closed."

Secretary Blakelee of the executive committee of the congress said recently that at least 75 per cent of the school children of the United States are physically defective. A recent inspection made in a typical school showed that 28 per cent of the pupils suffered from eye strain, 6 to 15 per cent from enlarged tonsils, 12 to 24 per cent from bad teeth. One to 15 per cent of the school children were found to have some form of skin diseases, 10 to 30 per cent suffered from nervous disorders, 5 to 20 per cent had some deformity, and 2 to 5 per cent suffered from defective hearing. It is to the elimination of such conditions that the work of international congresses on school hygiene is directed.

WOOD TURNED TO OPAL.

Wood under the chemistry of time and the elements of nature has often turned to stone, but it does not often turn into precious stones. It is in the deposits of the western parts of the United States. There are deposits of wood turned into opal in Nevada, which is manufactured into jewelry, specimens of which are on the market in New York and other cities. The new jewel consists of petrified wood, the fiber of which has been replaced by particles of the silicate called opal. It is of dark red and blue shades, with many flashes of color through it. In the sunlight the stone has a fascinating play of hues. Opal-essent wood is used for pendants, rings, etc. In appearance it rivals the precious opals that have been found in Hungary.—Christian Herald.

London Coster In His Holiday Clothes Is a Human Ray of Light

WHEN you go to London—every one visits the world's metropolis sooner or later—take half a day off from the British museum and Westminster abbey and St. Paul's cathedral and visit the east end, where the costermonger has his home. It will pay you. If you can get there when the coster has one of his holidays, so much the better. You'll see him arrayed in all his glory, making King Solomon of holy memory look like a piker. When the sun's rays hit the costermonger's holiday suit, adorned with the rows of pearl buttons, he looks like "the house of a thousand candles" all lit up.

Gaze upon the coster in the picture. Take in the significance and ponder upon the cost of those pearl buttons. He's the man of whom the news dispatches told not long ago as wearing 72,000 buttons sewed on his coat, waistcoat, trousers and cap. Wherever there was room for a pearl button 'Arry's tailor got busy with the needle and thread. The buttons were real and true—no imitations for the costermonger! If you're good at figures ask your wife how much pearl buttons about the size of a man's coat button are worth—the prices in London are about the same as they are elsewhere—and figure how much that man's 72,000 buttons cost him.

Another coster at the costermonger's donkey show at the People's palace, in the east end of London, the other day had 60,000 buttons, and still another claimed 45,000 for his coat alone. He said the work of attaching them took nine months of his daughter's time. Shed a tear of pity for the daughter's eyes! Of course only the costermonger's holiday suit is adorned with all those bits of mother-of-pearl. His everyday working clothes are more sober. London had a big horse show not long ago, and one night was given up to the donkeys, or "mokes," of the costermongers. Next to his pearl button suit, or perhaps, just a bit ahead of the brilliant raiment, the coster loves his donkey. So he welcomed the opportunity of mingling with the lords and ladies and the "bloomin' furriners" at Olympia and put his moke through its best paces.

After the show there was a dance, in which Lord Lonsdale, England's famous sporting peer and intimate friend of the Kaiser, danced a jig with the "donahy" or "lady friend," of one of the costers. She was clad, like her man, in pearl buttons, besides other things.

If Lord Lonsdale weren't a peer and ineligible for election to the house of commons, the east end of London would demand that he "stand" for a seat there.

The costermonger, better known as the coster, is the peddler of London, distinguished from other peddlers, in law as well as in custom, by the fact that he does business with the aid of an animal and a barrow. He differs from the "hawker" in having the barrow and from the "general dealer" in having no fixed place of business.

This is not to be construed as saying that the coster has no fixed route for the selling of the vegetables, fruit and fish in which he deals. If any one thinks he can poach on the coster's preserves and sell the commodities mentioned he has a sad awakening coming to him. Probably all England, and the rest of the world, too, for that matter, contains no body of men more

tenacious of their rights than the London costers. They have good reason for objecting to trespassing, for some of their routes are very valuable. As much as £1,000 has been paid for a coster's route.

Generally speaking, the costermonger is a peaceable individual, shrewd, witty and kindly, speaking a language which sounds a good deal like English and is really cockney carried to its extreme. But sometimes, especially when he takes his holidays with his "donahy" and his moke, he gets too much "art and ard into him, and 'e and 'Arry 'ave to face the beak in the mornin'.

Then comes the time of explanation and contrition, sometimes successful, sometimes to no avail. Students of human nature are sure of hauling in something in their nets if they attend the London police courts when a costermonger is brought up.

WALTON WILLIAMS.



PHOTOS BY AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION. COSTER, HIS MISSUS AND THE KIDS, ALL IN THEIR PEARL BUTTON COSTUMES.